AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling manufacture of a sheet material cut into a predetermined size, in which the sheet material or a processed product of the sheet material is manufactured by processing the sheet material or performing predetermined operations on the processed sheet material at each of processing operations or processing sections provided at the processing operations while conveying the sheet material along a predetermined line, the method comprising:

detecting passage of the sheet material or the processed product of the sheet material by sheet material detectors disposed at entrance and exit sides of each of the processing operations or the processing sections where the sheet material or the processed product of the sheet material enters and exits the processing operations or the processing sections; and

controlling conveyance or manufacture of the sheet material or the processed product of the sheet material based on results of detection by the sheet material detectors.

2. - 5 (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) A method for controlling manufacture of a sheet material cut into a predetermined size applied to a manufacturing line including an operation section for performing a predetermined operation on the sheet material while conveying the sheet material along a predetermined conveyance path, the method comprising:

detecting passage of the sheet material by sheet material detectors respectively disposed at entrance and exit sides of the operation section where the sheet material enters and exits the operation section; and

controlling conveyance or manufacture of the sheet material based on results of detection by the sheet material detectors.

7. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined operation comprises sorting the sheet material.

8. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the operation section comprises a branch path for sorting the sheet material being conveyed, and the sheet material detectors are disposed at entrance and exit sides of the branch path.

9. – 17. (cancelled).

18. (new) The method according to claim 6, wherein:

the operation section includes a sorting section for sorting the sheet material and conveying and collecting the sheet material into different collection sections, the sorting section including a sheet material conveyance path with at least one branch gate, the at least one branch gate operating so as to direct the sheet material conveyed thereto to one of different paths therefrom;

sheet material detectors are disposed at entrance and exit sides of the at least one branch gate for detecting the sheet material that passes through or has passed through the at least one branch gate; and

the determining step determines a conveyance status of the sheet material based on results of detection by the sheet material detectors.

19. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein the determination is made as to whether or not any failure has occurred in at least one of conveyance and sorting of the sheet material.

20. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein the conveyance status of the sheet material is determined based on checking at least one of the results of detection by the sheet material detectors disposed at the entrance and exit sides of the branch gate.

21. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein one of the collection sections is disposed, together with a counter for counting a number of the sheet

materials collected at the respective collection section, at each of terminal ends of the branch paths.

22. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the paths branched from the at least one branch gate directs the sheet material toward a next branch gate.

23. (new) The method according to claim 19, wherein the manufacturing line is controlled so as to stop conveyance of the sheet material based on a determination of a failure.

24. (new) The method according to claim 21, wherein the sheet material is produced by cutting to a predetermined length a long material wound in a roll, the method further comprising calculating a number of produced sheet materials based on a length of the material drawn out from the roll, and comparing a number of the sheet materials collected in the collection sections with the calculated number of produced sheet materials.

25. (new) The method according to claim 24, wherein the comparison between the numbers of the sheet materials is performed when conveyance of the sheet material is stopped.

26. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein at least one of wrapping and packaging the collected sheet materials is carried out, the method further comprising the steps of counting a number of sorted sheet materials and the numbers of at least one of the wrapped and package sheet materials, respectively, and comparing, at a predetermined timing, the number of sorted sheet materials and the number of the at least one of wrapped and packaged sheet materials.